



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 24, 2019

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín and Councilmembers Rigel Robinson and Ben Bartlett

Subject: Support H.R. 2809 – The Improving Access to Nutrition Act of 2019

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in support of H.R. 2809 – The Improving Access to Nutrition Act of 2019. Send a copy of the Resolution to Congressperson Barbara Lee, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, and President Donald Trump.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, an estimated 1 in 8 Americans, or 40 million people, were food insecure. Food insecurity, according to the US Department of Agriculture, is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. This is caused by a lack of available financial resources for food. Climate change is expected to increase the cost of food in the coming decades as crop failures become more frequent. This will place further strain on the most vulnerable communities who are already struggling to pay for food.

Currently, adults without children between the ages of 18-49 and do not have a documented disability are limited to three months of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits if they are not working at least 80 hours a month. This places millions of people who are unable to find stable employment at risk of being unable to have adequate access to food. H.R. 2809, the Improving Access to Nutrition Act of 2019, introduced by Congressperson Barbara Lee, removes the three month limit to SNAP benefits.

Many of the people who are limited to the current three month restriction for SNAP benefits are students. A 2017 report from the UC Global Food Initiative revealed that 44% of undergraduates and 26% of graduate students throughout the UC system were food insecure. Students that are transfer students, former foster care youth, low socioeconomic status, independent, LGBTQ, and/or a part of an underrepresented minority are more likely to be disproportionately represented as food insecure. The UC Berkeley Food Pantry has seen a ten-fold increase in traffic between 2016-2018. According to the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey, 1 in 5 UC Berkeley students have reported skipping meals due to financial reasons. While some financial aid and food programs help fill in some of the gaps student faces, it is clear that reforming the SNAP program will provide much needed support to food insecure students.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Not applicable.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Councilmember Rigel Robinson 510-981-7170

Attachments:

1: Resolution

2: Text of H.R. 2809

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2809 – THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO NUTRITION ACT OF 2019

WHEREAS, food insecurity, defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life, impacts an estimated 1 in 8 Americans, equating to 40 million people; and

WHEREAS, with food prices expected to rise in the coming years and decades in part due to climate change's impact on food crops, it is expected that food insecurity will become a bigger issue, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, many students are impacted by food insecurity, with a 2017 report from the UC Global Food Initiative revealing that 44% of undergraduates and 26% of graduate students across the UC system are food insecure; and

WHEREAS, students that are transfer students, former foster care youth, low socioeconomic status, independent, LGBTQ, and/or a part of an underrepresented minority are more likely to be disproportionately represented as food insecure; and

WHEREAS, at UC Berkeley, 1 in 5 students have reported skipping meals due to financial reasons; and

WHEREAS, currently, adults without children between the ages of 18-49 and do not have a documented disability are limited to three months of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits if they are not working at least 80 hours a month; and

WHEREAS, these restrictions disproportionately impact students and adults without stable employment; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2809, the Improving Access to Nutrition Act of 2019, introduced by Congressperson Barbara Lee, removes the three month limit to SNAP benefits.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby supports H.R. 2809 – the Improving Access to Nutrition Act of 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to Congressperson Barbara Lee, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, and President Donald Trump.

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2809

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to repeal the particular work requirement that disqualifies able-bodied adults for eligibility to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2019

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. CORREA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to repeal the particular work requirement that disqualifies able-bodied adults for eligibility to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Access to
5 Nutrition Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) WORK REQUIREMENT.—Section 6 of the Food
3 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015) is amended—

4 (1) in subsections (d)(4)(B)(ii)(I)(bb),
5 (d)(4)(N)(iii)(I)(bb), (d)(4)(N)(iv)(II), and
6 (d)(4)(N)(v)(IV) by striking “or subsection (o)”, and
7 (2) by striking subsection (o).

8 (b) ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS FOR STATES THAT
9 ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES.—Sec-
10 tion 16(h)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
11 U.S.C. 2025(h)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph
12 (E).

13 (c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

14 (1) Section 7(i)(1) of the Food and Nutrition
15 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(i)(1)) is amended by
16 striking “section 6(o)(2) of this Act or”.

17 (2) Section 16(h) of the Food and Nutrition
18 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)) is amended—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

21 (I) by striking “that—” and all
22 that follows through “(i)”, and

23 (II) by striking “; and” and all
24 that follows through “6(o)”, and

25 (ii) in subparagraph
26 (F)(ii)(III)(ee)(AA) by striking “, individ-

1 uals subject to the requirements under sec-
2 tion 6(o)”, and

3 (B) in paragraph (5)(C)—

4 (i) in clause (ii) by inserting “and” at
5 the end, and

6 (ii) in clause (iii) by striking “; and”
7 and all that follows through “appropriate”.

8 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

9 (a) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—Section
10 51(d)(8)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26
11 U.S.C. 51(d)(8)(A)(ii)) is amended—

12 (1) by striking “family—” and all that follows
13 through “(I)” and inserting “family”, and

14 (2) by striking “, or” and all that follows
15 through “of 2008”.

16 (b) WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY
17 ACT.—The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
18 (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is amended—

19 (1) in section 103(a)(2) by striking subpara-
20 graph (D), and

21 (2) in section 121(b)(2)(B) by striking clause
22 (iv).

23 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.**

24 (a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in sub-
25 section (b), this Act and the amendments made by this

1 Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment
2 of this Act.

3 (b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—

4 (1) The amendments made by section 2 shall
5 not apply with respect to an allotment issued under
6 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
7 et seq.) before the effective date of this Act.

8 (2) The amendments made by section 3(a) shall
9 not apply to individuals hired before the expiration
10 of the 90-day period that begins on the effective
11 date of this Act.

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